Ozone Reactivity Measurement of Biogenic Volatile Organic Compound Emissions

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Abstract

Previous research on atmospheric chemistry in the forest environment has shown that the total reactivity by biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emission is not well considered in forest chemistry models. One possible explanation for this discrepancy is the unawareness and neglect of reactive biogenic emission that have eluded common monitoring methods. This question motivated the development of a total ozone reactivity monitor (TORM) for the direct determination of the reactivity of foliage emissions. Emissions samples drawn from a vegetation branch enclosure experiment are mixed with a known and controlled amount of ozone (resulting in e.g. 100 ppb of ozone) and directed through a temperature-controlled glass flow reactor to allow reactive biogenic emissions to react with ozone during the approximately 2-minute residence time in the reactor. The ozone reactivity is determined from the difference in the ozone mole fraction before and after the reaction vessel. An inherent challenge of the experiment is the influence of changing water vapor in the sample air on the ozone signal. A commercial UV absorption ozone monitor was modified to directly determine the ozone differential with one instrument and sample air was drawn through Nafion dryer membrane tubing. These two modifications significantly reduced interferences from water vapor and errors associated with the determination of the reacted ozone as the difference from two individual measurements, resulting in a much improved and sensitive determination of the ozone reactivity. This paper provides a detailed description of the measurement design, the instrument apparatus, and its characterization. Examples and results from field deployments demonstrate the applicability and usefulness of the TORM.

1. Introduction

Recent field research on the atmospheric chemistry in forest environments has yielded a series of results that cannot be explained with our current comprehension of biogenic emissions, deposition processes, and chemical reactions. These findings date back to the pivotal paper by Di Carlo et al. [2004] that stimulated new interest and research into the question of unaccounted for biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emissions. These researchers compared the directly measured

hydroxyl radical (OH) reactivity in ambient air at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) PROPHET forest research site with the OH reactivity calculated from a comprehensive set of measured atmospheric gas phase species. The important conclusion of this study was that identified compounds could only account for about 2/3 of the directly measured OH reactivity. Interestingly, the difference between the two measurements, often called “missing OH reactivity” showed temperature dependence very similar to that found for monoterpene (MT) compounds. This similarity led the authors to hypothesize that the missing OH reactivity is due to non-identified BVOC emissions emitted from tree foliage at this site.

While these findings were surprising at the time of publication, several other subsequent studies have come to similar conclusions. OH reactivity measurements in ambient air have consistently shown higher OH reactivity values than what can be accounted for by quantified chemical species, and notably, the review of available measurements shows a tendency towards a higher discrepancy at sites that are subjected to a relatively high influence from BVOC emissions [Lou et al., 2010].

The other line of research that has pointed towards the current underestimation of BVOC emissions relies on ozone flux observation over forest canopies. Kurpius and Goldstein [2003] segregated ozone deposition fluxes over a ponderosa pine plantation into stomatal uptake, non-stomatal surface deposition, and gas phase chemistry contributions. They found that during summer, the ozone flux was dominated by gas-phase chemistry, and that the ozone loss showed an exponential increase with temperature, with similar behavior as BVOC emissions. However, identified BVOCs could only account for a small fraction of this reactivity. Consequently, these researchers postulated that there is a “large unrecognized source of reactive compounds in forested environments”. A follow-up study [Goldstein et al., 2004], based on measurements during a forest thinning experiment, went even further and claimed that “unmeasured BVOC emissions are approximately 10 times the measured monoterpene flux”. These hypotheses have been supported by findings from a series of other subsequent studies [Altimir et al., 2004; Holzinger et al., 2005; Altimir et al., 2006; Hogg et al., 2007; Fares et al., 2010a; Fares et al., 2010b; Fares et al., 2010c; Wolfe et al., 2011].

There has been considerable progress in identifying and characterizing hitherto unrecognized BVOC emissions. The most significant ones are light-dependent MT emissions [Ortega et al., 2007; McKinney et al., 2011] and sesquiterpenes (SQT) [Duhl et al., 2008]. Furthermore, it has been recognized that methyl chavicol can be strongly emitted [Bouvier-Brown et al., 2009a; Bouvier-Brown et al., 2009b; Misztal et al., 2010]. However, inclusion of these emissions only contributes a minor fraction to closing the gap between identified and inferred BVOC concentrations. In a study at the PROPHET site, using the comparative reactivity method, Kim et al. [2011] determined directly the OH reactivity in emission samples drawn from branch enclosures. OH reactivity was also calculated based on BVOC emissions identified by Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometry (PTR-MS) and Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS). A red oak, white pine, beech, and maple tree were investigated. Their results indicated a high range of total OH reactivity from the emissions of these species, with red oak emissions showing the highest OH reactivity overall. Identified isoprene and MT emissions could explain the directly measured OH reactivity from red oak, white pine, and beech. However, isoprene and monoterpene emissions from red maple could only explain a fraction of the measured OH reactivity. The OH reactivity from maple was dominated by emission of the SQT α-farnesene, which is a compound that would not have been identified in earlier studies of ambient BVOC at this site. These findings show that the chemical reactivity in emissions from different tree species can vary substantially in their overall magnitude and attribution to the emitted BVOC species. This indicates that there is the potential that ecosystems with different plant species composition could have substantial unaccounted for emissions that contribute to OH reactivity. This

suggests that there must be BVOC compounds or compound classes emitted from foliage that current measurements do not capture, which is not unexpected given the major analytical challenges associated with analysis of some organic compounds.

In this work, we are describing a monitoring approach that addresses this dilemma by constraining the total ozone reactivity of BVOCs emissions with a direct measurement. These observations can be contrasted with the reactivity that is calculated from the sum of the reactivities of individual BVOCs and their OH reaction rates to assess the fraction of the identified and missing compounds that contribute to the total reactivity. The instrument relies on a flow reactor. Sample air containing BVOCs is mixed with a small flow containing a high mole fraction of ozone. The loss of ozone is monitored with a differential ozone measurement. Our Total Ozone Reactivity Monitor (TORM) that was previously presented in [Helmig et al., 2010; Park et al., 2013] has since undergone further testing and development. The calculation of ozone reactivity is explained in Supplement A, and the modelled decay of a few typically measured BVOC and ozone in the reactor is available in Supplement B.

Two other instruments relying on different types of reactor and detection methodology have been reported since [Matsumoto, 2014; Sommariva et al., 2020]. These previous publications have also provided the principle and reaction kinetics consideration for this measurement. A linear double-tube Pyrex glass tube flow reactor with ozone detection up- and downstream of the reactor by two modified commercial (ECO PHYSICS, CLD770) chemiluminescence detectors (CLD) was used in the work by Matsumoto [2014]. The ozone reactivity was determined from the difference of the two analyzers' signal. A 1 m long, 2.4 L volume-PTFE linear reactor, was used by Sommariva et al. [2020]. These authors used two commercial Thermo Scientific Model 49i UV absorption monitors for the ozone determination, with the ozone reactivity again determined from the difference of the two monitor signals.

We particularly emphasize the necessity of properly characterizing the interference from water vapor on the ozone determination, and the advantage of the measurement of the amount of reacted ozone through a differential ozone determination with a single monitor. Thirdly, assembly of readily available instrument components facilitate a relatively easy, low expense instrument assembly.

Rigid chambers or flexible bag enclosures are the common approaches for studying biogenic emissions by dynamic or static vegetation enclosures [Ortega and Helmig, 2008; Ortega et al., 2008]. Enclosure experiments allow the selective identification of emissions from individual plant species. Depending on the operational parameters, emissions can build up to many times, even order of magnitudes, higher levels than in ambient air. Higher temperatures (than in ambient air) are often encountered inside enclosures from the greenhouse warming effect, which enhances emissions and facilitates higher sensitivity of emissions determination. An inherent disadvantage and analytical challenge, however, is the evaporative water flux from the transpiring enclosed foliage. Under the most extreme, and not too uncommon conditions, water vapor saturation can be achieved inside the chamber, causing liquid water condensation on the chamber inside walls and within sampling tubing. The water flux is sensitive to the stomatal conductance, responding to conditions of light and temperature. In an ambient setting, these often change dynamically, causing similarly fast changes in water vapor concentration inside the enclosure and sample air. At 30°C and water saturation, the water vapor mole fraction is approximately 4.2%. A mere 10% fluctuation equates to 4.2 parts per thousand (‰), or 4,200,000 ppb of a water vapor change. The signals that have been achieved in ozone reactivity monitoring instruments system are usually in the single ppb range for $\Delta[O_3]$. Consequently, for the ozone monitoring to be selective, the ozone detection needs to be insensitive

to water vapor changes that can be on the order of 10^6-10^7 times larger in mole fraction than the ozone signal. This is an enormous challenge for this measurement, as both the ozone CLD and UV absorption measurements are sensitive to water vapor.

Interference with an instrument signal response in the range of tens to hundreds of ppb has been reported for different types of UV absorption monitors from rapid changes in water vapor [Wilson and Birks, 2006; Spicer et al., 2010]. This interference was traced to humidity effects on the transmission of light, i.e. reflectivity of light on the cell walls, through the optical cell [Wilson and Birks, 2006]. The study identified that the instrument's ozone scrubber amplified this effect, acting as a water reservoir adding or removing water to the air flow depending on the sample air moisture content. A 10 % change in the recorded ozone was observed from a 30 to 80% RH increase for a UV absorption monitor in other studies [Kim et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2020]. Inserting a Nafion dryer into the sampling path can reduce the water interference, in the best scenario to within equal or better than ± 2 ppb [Wilson and Birks, 2006; Spicer et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2020]. Sommariva et al. [2020] found that the ozone wall losses were dependent on the relative humidity in their PTFE flow reactor.

While CLD analyzers for ozone determination are more expensive to acquire and operate, they are popular for fast ozone measurements such as for aircraft [Ridley et al., 1992] and eddy covariance flux measurements [Lenschow et al., 1981, 1982]. Similarly to UV monitors, CLD instruments suffer from an interference by water vapor, which in this case is caused by the quenching of the chemiluminescence signal in the reaction chamber [Matthews et al., 1977; Boylan et al., 2014]. A correction factor of 4-5 x 10^{-3} has been proposed, to be multiplied by the water vapor mole fraction in nmol mol^{-1} [Boylan et al., 2014]. Under moist ambient air conditions, this correction can account for up to15% of the ozone signal. Consequently, following the enclosure system water vapor estimates above, CLD in an ozone reactivity system may be susceptible to a several percent interference from changing water vapor, which is on the same order of magnitude as the observed ozone reactivity observed in the flow chamber system.

Both, Matsumoto [2014] and Sommariva et al. [2020] used two ozone monitors for determination of the ozone upstream and downstream of the reactor, with the reacted ozone then determined as the difference of the recordings from both instruments. One objective of this configuration in the Matsumoto [2014] work was to achieve a reduction of the quenching interference, based on the assumption that both monitors would have similar responses to the water interferences, with these errors then mostly cancelling out in the differential ozone reactivity signal calculation. From a measurement and signal perspective, this is a rather disadvantageous measurement approach for several reasons: (1) the two monitors need to be carefully synced/calibrated against each other to make sure the instrument offset is characterized and corrected for so that their readings are consistent; (2) drifts of any of the two monitors, or of both, will directly transfer to a measurement error in $\Delta[O_3]$; and (3), statistically, the calculation of the ozone reactivity will be subject to a relatively large error, as the differential signal is a relatively small value resulting from the difference between two larger numbers. Any absolute errors in the directly measured values will therefore transfer into a relatively large error of the smaller differential. For these reasons, it would be preferable to measure the ozone differential through a direct measurement with one monitor. Furthermore, a one monitor measurement would be advantageous in terms of instrument maintenance and cost.

Our experiment presented here overcomes this predicament by modifying a commercial UV absorption ozone monitor for the direct measurement of the ozone differential. Further, sample drying was implemented to reduce the aforementioned interference from fluctuations in the sample water

vapor mole fraction. The experiments described here were conducted on two similar systems. The first instrument was developed at the University of Colorado, Boulder (CU). Colleagues from the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) in Helsinki visited CU for collaborative research on the experiment and then constructed a similar instrument to be used for their research at FMI. Both groups subsequently collaborated on further characterization and improvements of the TORM, and on an Arctic field deployment. In this paper, unless otherwise noted, we report experimental results from the CU instrument. In cases where results from the FMI instrument are reported, those are identified as FMI data. Experimental results from the CU and Helsinki instruments were compared throughout the instrument development. The comparison of results and the consistency in performance between the two instruments can be considered further evidence for in the reproducibility of the TORM performance.

2. Methods

The basic principle of the ozone reactivity determination of biogenic emissions is illustrated in Fig. 1. Emissions from vegetation are combined with a flow of ozone-enriched air and allowed to react in a flow reactor. Ozone is measured upstream and downstream of the reactor with a single instrument. In the standard configuration of an UV absorption ozone monitor, ozone-containing air and scrubbed air (ozone-free air) are either measured sequentially (one optical cell) or in parallel (two cell instruments), with the ozone mole fraction then determined following the Beer-Lambert Law. The ozone mole fraction is proportional to the natural logarithm of the light intensity I divided from the sample air (flow 1) by the light intensity in the scrubbed air Io (flow 2). By replacing the scrubbed air flow path with a second sampling inlet line, the resulting signal no longer reflects the difference in ozone between the sample (1) and scrubbed air (2, zero ozone), but instead becomes the difference in ozone between the two sample flows (2-1). The required instrument modification is rather simple, illustrated in Fig. 2 for a Thermo Scientific Model 49i instrument. It requires removal of the ozone scrubber (MoO scrubber in most cases) and the separation of the scrubbed and sample air into two separate inlets. In the standard configuration, the 49i samples air at ≈ 1.2 L min^{-1} through one inlet. In the modified configuration, this flow is split in half to ≈ 0.6 L min^{-1} each for the Sample 1 and Sample 2 inlets. An early configuration of the experiment to illustrate how the differential ozone monitoring was evaluated against the monitoring of ozone up and downstream of the reactor with two instruments is presented in Supplement C; the final one-monitor TORM configuration is shown in Fig. 3. The direct differential ozone measurement was always conducted with a Thermo Scientific Model 49i monitor. During the evaluation experiments, several different UV absorption ozone monitors were used for comparing the direct measurement with a result from two individual instruments. Those included Thermo Scientific Model 49i, Model 49C, and a MonitorLabs model 8810 monitor. The ozone that was added upstream of the reactor was generated by the Thermo Scientific 49i instrument (with ozone generator option) to yield a target ozone mole fraction of 100 ppb. To determine the proper ozone output from the generator, an additional ozone monitor was temporarily sampling the air downstream of the mixer. The ozone monitor was removed after dialling the ozone output to the target level and monitoring it for several days and assuring its constant output.

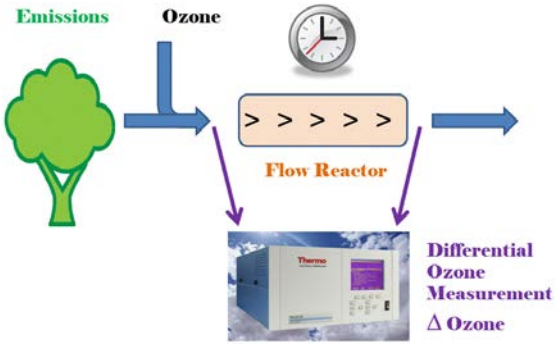

Figure 1. Principle of ozone reactivity measurement of biogenic emissions with one monitor that is configured for differential ozone signal recording.

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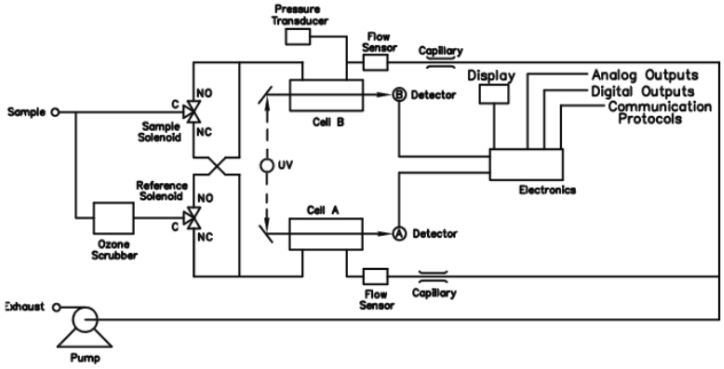
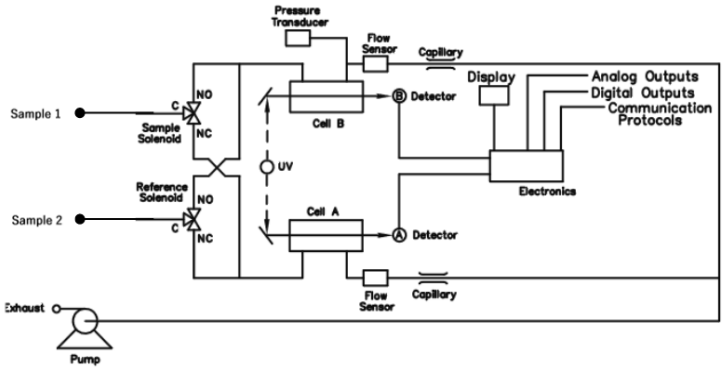


(B) Differential Ozone Monitoring Pluming Configuration



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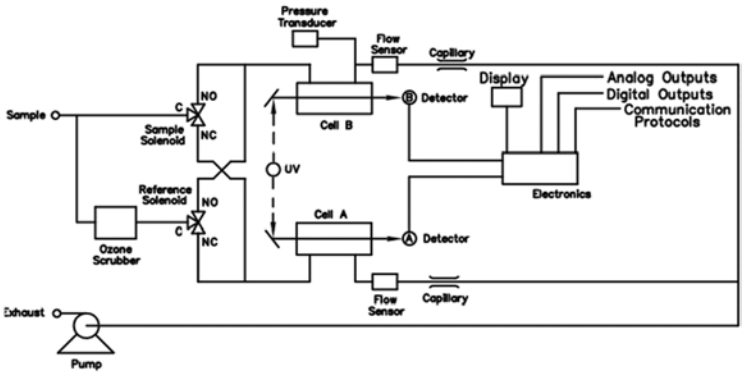


(B) Differential Ozone Monitoring Plumbing Configuration

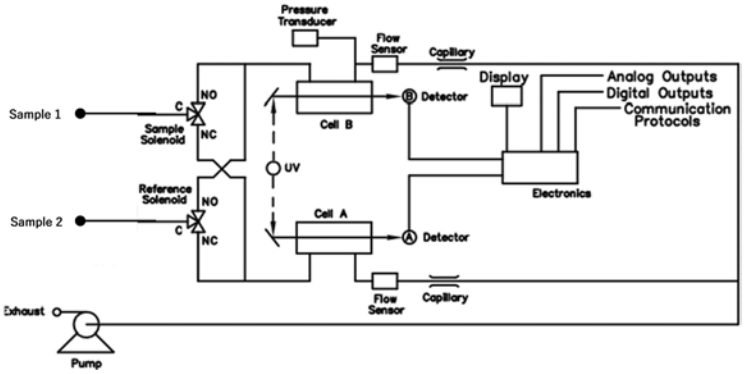
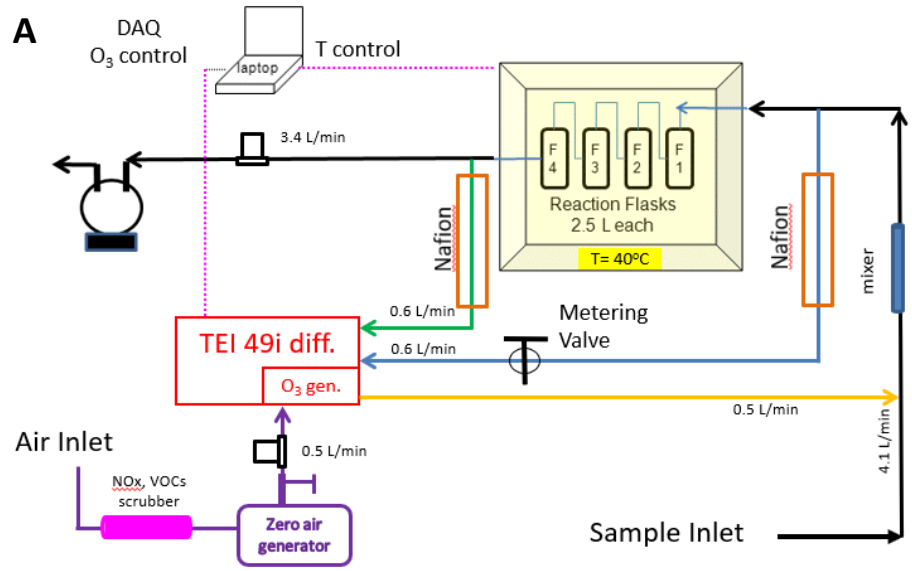


Figure 2. Plumbing configuration of a Thermo Scientific Instruments model 49 ozone UV absorption monitor in its original configuration (top) and in the modified configuration (bottom) for monitoring of ozone differentials.

While other studies [Matsumoto, 2014; Sommariva et al., 2020] utilized linear flow reactors, this experiment relied on using four glass flasks that were plumbed in series. The glass flask reactor design was chosen because it was deemed more compact and robust for field deployment applications. The 2.5 L borosilicate flasks that were used are air sampling flasks that are routinely deployed in the NOAA Cooperate Sampling Network for the global sampling of greenhouse gases. These glass flasks have been developed and extensively tested for their inertness and purity towards atmospheric trace gases (https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/flask.html; flasks are fabricated by Allen Scientific, Boulder, CO). Flasks are covered with shrink tubing as a protective film (polyolefin shrink wrap, buyheatshrink.com) and have two ports with stopcock Teflon vales. The valve in the center of the flask (Fig. 4) connects to a dip tube that leads to the inside and the opposite end of the flask. This configuration allows efficient purging and replacement of the air volume inside the flasks with minimal mixing. The flasks were plumbed such that the inflowing air was always introduced through the dip tube. The four flasks in series add up to a total ≈10 L reactor volume, so that the resulting residence time in the reactor is causing a sufficiently large differential signal (see also section 3.5). The flasks are contained in a 45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm (inside dimension) Pelican model 0340 cube case (Torrance, CA) that was fitted with 5 cm foam insulation on the inside. A rope heater, temperature probe, and temperature controller allow to thermostatically control the temperature, typically to 40°C. With this heating, losses of VOCs in the reactor's flasks are therefore less likely in comparison to the surfaces of a branch enclosure, for example, and the tubing of the sampling line, which are all at ambient temperature. The ozone reactant gas was provided from the Thermo Scientific 49i monitor using its integrated ozone generator. The output was set to provide a 1000 ppb constant output, so that the 1:10 dilution with the sample air flow resulted in a 100 ppb ozone mole fraction entering the reactor. All experiments described in this paper were conducted at this 100 ppb ozone mole fraction, unless stated otherwise. A mixer made of Teflon material (7.50 mm OD, with 30 mixing elements, 22.5 cm length, Stamixco AG, Wollerau, Switzerland) was inserted downstream of the introduction of the ozone gas flow for providing turbulent mixing between the sample air and ozone-enriched air. All tubing was made of 6.4 mm o.d./4.7 mm i.d. PFA tubing. The volume of the mixer and the tubing where the sample is mixed with ozone is only of about 15 ml, so that any ozone loss occurring in the tubing within a few milliseconds is negligible compared to the much longer residence time (in minutes) in the much larger reactor volume. The instrument operation and signal acquisition were controlled via a National Instruments digital input interface and custom-written LabView software.



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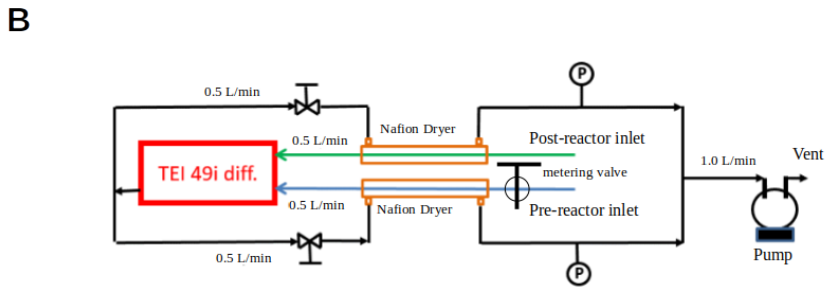

268

Figure 3. (A) Final configuration of the total ozone reactivity monitor (TORM) using one Thermo Scientific (TEI) 49i PS monitor plumbed for the direct differential ozone measurement (Figure 2), and with the Nafion dryers and metering valve included. Flow rates are indicated in the figure. Total flow through the reactor is 4 L min^{-1}. Please note that for simplicity this drawing does not show a second ozone monitor that was used for sampling the inflowing air between the mixer and the reactor to measure the ozone going into the reactor and setting the proper ozone output of the TEI 49i ozone generator. (B) Detail of the Nafion Dryer plumbing including the external pump that was added to the system for providing the purge flow for the Nafion dryers.

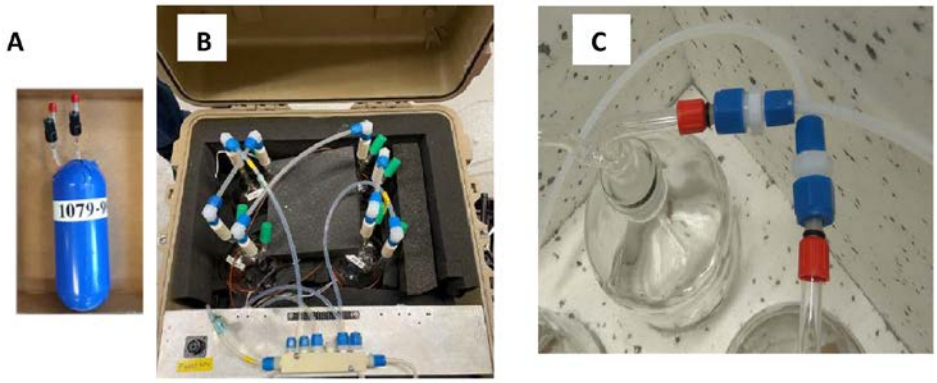

Figure 4. (A) Photograph of one of the glass flasks that were used for the University of Colorado flow reactor. (B) The ozone reactor with four of the flasks plumbed in series contained in an insulated and temperature-controlled field-deployable enclosure. Four flasks were plumbed in series for a total flow reactor volume of 10 L. (C) The 2-L bottles (borosilicate glass 3.3) used in the flow reactor system from FMI.

Experiments did not consider adding an OH scavenger (i.e. cyclohexane) [Matsumoto, 2014; Sommariva et al., 2020]. Sommariva et al. [2020] estimated a < 6 % difference in ozone reactivity for BVOC ozonolysis reactions based on modeling, but could not identify differences with and without cyclohexane added in their experiments. It is therefore unlikely that addition of an OH scavenger will make a notable difference in the ozone reactivity monitoring results.

~~A simple box model was used to estimate the expected differential signal from a known sample composition. It consists of reactions of the known BVOCs with O_3 which are solved using the kinetics pre-processor (KPP; Damian et al. [2002]). The decay of ozone after the corresponding residence time is compared to the background corrected differential signal (Supplement B).~~

During field deployments, branch enclosures were set up on sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua L.), white oak (Quercus alba), and loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) tree branches following our previously described protocol [Ortega and Helmig, 2008]. A Tedlar bag (36" x 24") was wrapped around a tree branch; the branch was situated in the middle of the bag with minimum touching of the wall. Scrubbed ambient air free of NO_x, ozone, and BVOC (Purafil and activated charcoal scrubbers), was delivered to the enclosure at 25 L min^{-1}. Most of the moisture in the purge air was also removed by condensing it in a set of coils placed inside a refrigerator. The scrubber system did not remove carbon dioxide. Air samples from the enclosure were taken through the ports affixed on the Tedlar bag, drawn at flow rates that are suitable for the sampling apparatus and instruments. The rest of the purge air escaped the enclosure mainly through the gap between the bag and the main stem of the branch.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 System conditioning

A newly assembled system exhibited a significant ozone sink, on the order of 20-30 ppb loss of ozone (at 100 ppb) at a 4 L min^{-1} reactor flow. The slow decline of the ozone loss signal over time indicated a gradual equilibration of the system to the ozone in the sample air. This ozone loss was

most likely due to reaction of ozone with impurities and active sites on interior surfaces of the tubing and reactor vessel. Therefore, we chose to label it as ozone wall loss (OWL). The OWL and its signal drift could almost entirely be eliminated thorough conditioning of all tubing and the reactor with an air flow enriched in ozone. For this conditioning, the system was purged for 24 hours with 500 ppb of ozone. After this treatment, the OWL associated with the sample flow through the reactor in the absence of chemical gas reactants, i.e. the reactor background signal, was, depending on the particular system condition and operational variables, on the order of 1-2 % of the supplied ozone mole fraction; i.e. at 100 ppb ozone, the loss was reduced to 1-2 ppb and did no longer show any drifts in the signal. The OWL recorded after system conditioning (i.e., wall losses) can be different if the system is run in a different configuration (e.g., different flow through the reactor, different temperature or relative humidity).

The limit of detection (LOD) for the ozone differential signal was determined from the stability of the differential signal with the FMI instrument. The experiment was conducted over a full day, with the reactor located outside and sampling from an empty enclosure that was purged with clean, BVOC-free air and subjected to a full daily cycle of changing ambient conditions in temperature, humidity, and light. There was no notable drift in the $\Delta[O_3]$ signal over the measurement period despite the changes in the environmental conditions (Supplement D). After warmup, the 1-min averaged $\Delta[O_3]$ signal displayed a standard deviation (σ) of 0.075 - 0.096 ppb (over 1 h, n = 60), which corresponds to a (3σ) LOD of 0.23-0.29 ppb.

Using equation (S6) from Supplement A and taking into account the dilution of sampled air with the added O_3 flow, the LOD for the ozone reactivity determination can be calculated from this (3σ) signal. It results in a value of 1.8 – 2.3 x 10^{-5} s^{-1}. The calculation assumes an ozone mole fraction of 100 ppb before the reactor and a residence time of 150 s. Other systems to measure the ozone reactivity using two separate monitors before and after the reactor reported slightly higher (i.e. less sensitive) limits of detection, i.e. 4 x 10^{-5} s^{-1} [Matsumoto, 2014], and 4.5 – 9 x 10^{-5} s^{-1} [Sommariva et al., 2020].

3.2 Balancing of the ozone monitor inlet pressures

The readings from the differential ozone monitor are sensitive to the difference in the pressure in the two sampling lines that connect to upstream and downstream of the reactor (Supplement E). The pressure differential results from the vacuum generated by the sampling pump for providing flow through the reactor. The 49i diagnostics menu allows monitoring of the pressures of the two optical cells. In the original configuration, it was found that there was a pressure difference of, depending of the flow rate, 20-30 torr between the two cells at a 4 L min-1 reactor flow, with the lower pressure recorded in the line downstream of the reactor. This pressure differential alters between negative and positive values as the monitor alternates air from the two inlets through the two optical cells. This pressure difference results in an artificial ozone signal offset between the two sampling paths. An increase of the flow rate through the reactor causes a change in the pressure difference and the ozone differential reported by the monitor: Increasing the flow rate from 2 to 9 L min^{-1} corresponded to an increase from 2 to 7 ppb increase in the differential ozone signal. This behavior is clearly a measurement artifact and counter to the expected ozone loss, as the actual chemical ozone loss decreases with decreasing residence time of the air inside the reactor (i.e. increasing flow rate). This measurement artifact was mitigated by inserting a 0.64 cm Teflon metering valve into the sampling line upstream of the reactor. By closing the valve slightly, the flow was restricted to where both cell pressure readings from the reactor were equal (within ≈1 torr). This resulted in an ozone differential signal of ≈1.7 ppb that was insensitive to the reactor flow rate (Supplement E). The final plumbing

configuration of the TORM and its integration into a vegetation enclosure experiment is shown in Fig. 5.

3.3 Evaluation of the direct differential ozone reactivity measurement

Results from the parallel operation of two ozone monitors measuring the actual ozone before and after the reactor, with $\Delta[O_3]$ calculated from the difference of the two readings, compared to the direct ozone differential measurement by TORM are summarized in Fig. 6. Field data, collected during the Southern Oxidant and Aerosol Study (SOAS) (CU Boulder system), constitute a total of ten days of measurements collected using branch enclosures on three different branches of sweetgum trees. The OWL to the TORM was determined on five occasions by sampling from an empty bag. In these field conditions, the background differential signal (3-5 ppb, Fig. 6B) was somewhat higher than in the laboratory experiments described in the previous section. The OWL results bracketing the vegetation enclosure experiments were averaged and subtracted from the recordings of the enclosure experiments in between. The ozone differential was normalized to the air flow through the chamber and to the dried weight of leaf biomass that was sampled from the vegetation in the branch enclosure. These time series data show a clear diurnal cycle with the ozone differential increasing steeply during daytime hours. Results are reasonably consistent between days and the three different enclosures, considering that the BVOCs emissions that determine this signal are highly sensitive to light and the enclosure temperature, which varied during the experiment. There is high agreement between the $\Delta[O_3]$ results from both configurations across these experiments. A linear regression between results from the two monitoring methods from the SOAS study yields a slope value of 0.996. The graphed data also show the substantial improvement in the noise of the measurement with the direct differential monitoring (A, B). The precision error of the direct differential measurement is only about 1/5 compared to the result from the two monitors. After the system equilibration, the 1-σ standard deviation of the differential ozone measurement for 1-min averaged readings was generally in the range of 0.1 – 0.2 ppb, which was 2-3 times lower than the calculated ozone difference from the two-monitor measurement. These results clearly indicate the benefits of the single monitor measurement: (1) the accuracy of the differential signal is consistent with the differential two-monitor determination; (2) there is a significant improvement in the measurement precision from using a single monitor; and (3) the operation of a single monitor is less tedious and labor intensive as it does not require the regular intercomparison for determination of offsets and drifts and correction algorithms for calibrating the response of two individual monitors [Bocquet et al., 2011; Sommariva et al., 2020].

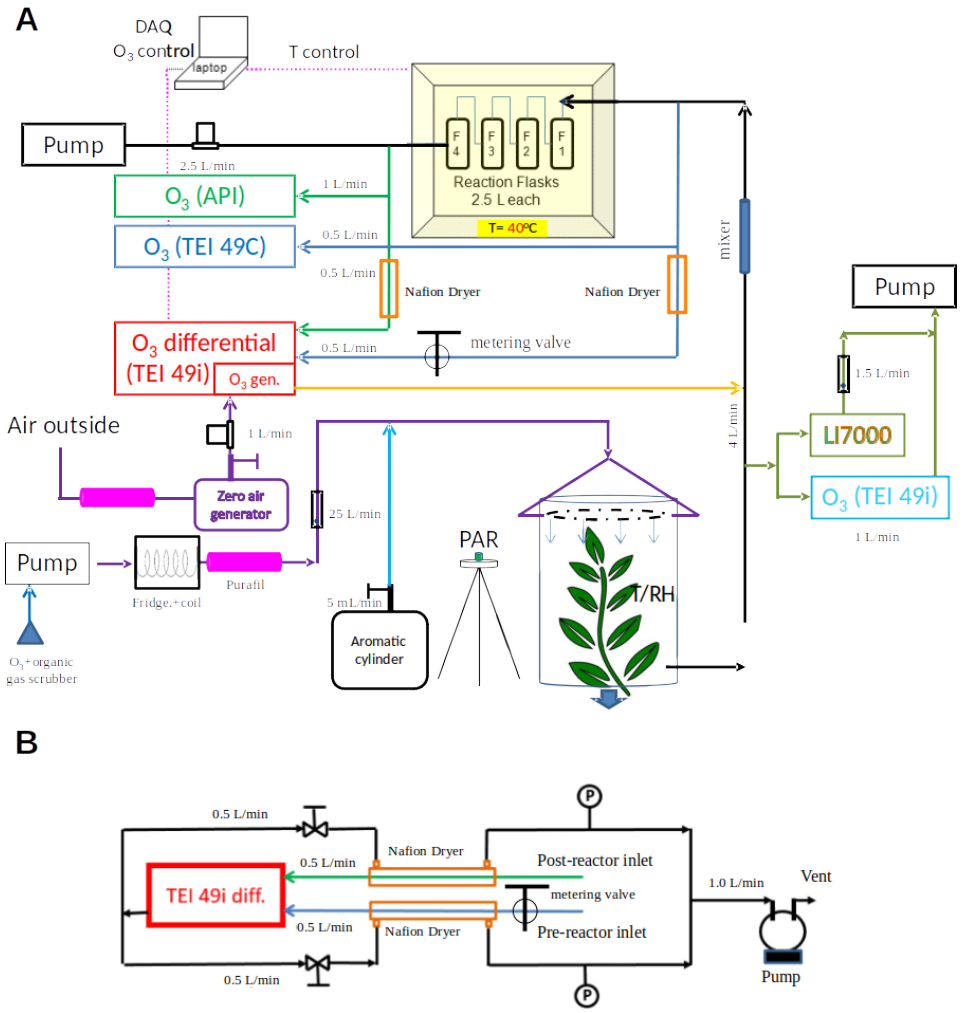

Figure 5. (A) Final configuration of the total ozone reactivity monitor with one differential ozone monitor, the sampling line pressure balancing valve, and the Nafion dryers. Note that this schematic does not include the purge flows required by the Nafion dryers. These are described separately in Figure 3B.

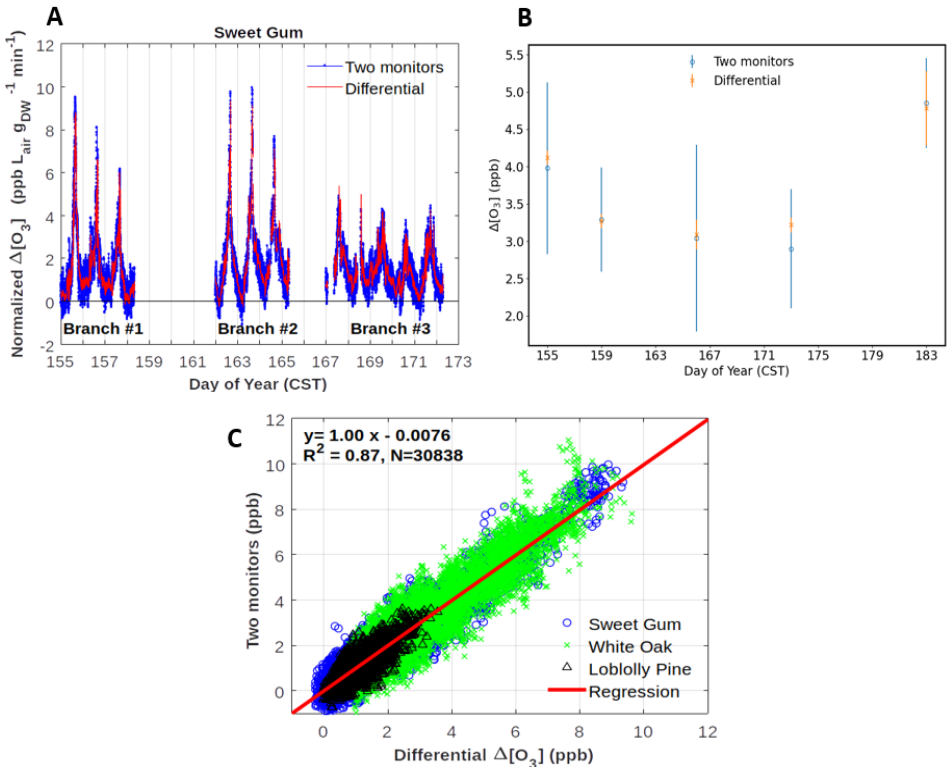

Figure 6. Results from comparisons of monitoring the ozone loss in the reactor with two monitors versus measuring the ozone differential directly with the configuration shown in Figure 2B. (A) Three multi-day experiments of $\Delta[O_3]$ monitoring from an enclosure of sweetgum branches, Data are also corrected for the empty bag OWL data shown in panel (B) and normalized for flow through the enclosure and dried weight of leaf biomass. (B) $\Delta[O_3]$ determinations from blank experiments on an empty enclosure. (C) Summary results of experiments on a total of three different vegetation species. All field experiment results are from the Southern Oxidant and Aerosol Study (SOAS) campaign between June to July 2013 at a field site in Perry County, west central Alabama (Praplan et al., in preparation).

383

384 **3.4 Sample residence time in the reactor**

385

386 The desired operation of a flow reactor system is for air to move through the reactor as a narrow
387 plug, with minimal turbulence and mixing. Most flow reactors are tubular and linear and are used in
388 laboratory settings. Depending on their operational variables, they achieve seconds to a few minutes
389 residence time. The residence time and peak broadening during transport through the reactor was
390 studied by installing a syringe injection port upstream of the reactor, injection of a small volume of a
391 1 ppm standard of nitric oxide (NO), and monitoring the ozone loss from the ozone + NO reaction
392 downstream of the reactor with a fast-response (5 Hz) nitric oxide chemiluminescence instrument.
393 Experiments were conducted in two different configurations: 1. In the normal plumbing configuration,
394 with the incoming air introduced to each flask through the dip tube. 2. To test the effect of the dip
395 tube, the plumbing was also reversed. The flow through the reactor was set to 4 L min^{-1}, which for
396 an ideal flow reactor, at 10 L volume, should result in a 2.4 min (150 s) residence time. Results of
397 these tests are shown in Fig. 7. For both configurations, the peak signal was observed earlier than

the theoretical time, i.e. ≈18 s for the normal configuration, and ≈50 s for the reversed configuration. The peak widths (at half of peak maximum) were ≈90 s and 120 s, for the normal and reversed configuration, respectively. The behavior in these data show that there is a considerable amount of mixing inside the reactor glass flasks, causing deviation from an ideal flow reactor. Nonetheless, the residence time of ≈120 s for the normal plumbing configuration is sufficient to allow ozone to react with the sample so that a large enough differential signal can be measured. The findings from this experiment were confirmed at a higher, 6 L min^{-1} flow rate (Supplement F). Both experiments show the advantage of the air introduction through the dip tube, resulting in a narrower peak, i.e. narrower defined residence time.

For this configuration of the reactor, the mean residence time is about 90% of the theoretical residence time. In case the flow through the reactor deviates from 4 or 6 l min^{-1}, at which these experiments were conducted, a factor 0.9 is applied to the theoretical residence time in order to estimate as best as possible the peak residence time for ozone reactivity calculations.

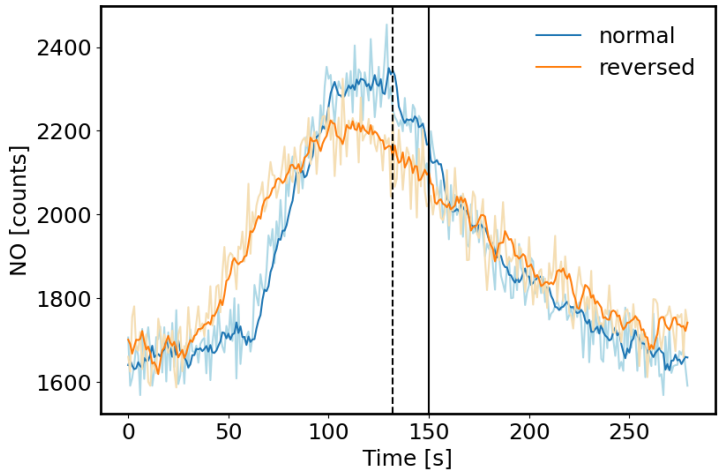

Figure 7. Test of sample air residence time in the flow reactor. A small volume of a 1 ppm NO standard was injected through a port upstream of the reactor and NO was monitored downstream with a fast response chemiluminescence analyzer (1 s time resolution). 5 s running averages are presented here. The normal configuration was with the flow entering each flask through the dip tube. The reversed configuration was with the airflow exiting each flask through the dip tube. The vertical black line indicates the theoretical residence time (150 s) based on the total flow rate (4 L min^{-1}) and total volume (10 L) of the reactor, assuming that there was no mixing inside the flasks. The dotted line depicts the mean of the distribution at 132 s for the normal configuration.

3.5 Evaluation and Mitigation of Humidity effects

As elucidated on in the introduction section, changes in humidity can severely interfere in the ozone determination [Wilson and Birks, 2006; Spicer et al., 2010]. Ozone monitors have been found to be less sensitive, i.e. report ozone below its actual value at high humidity, and to exhibit large artificial signal fluctuations from rapid changes in the sample water vapor. Characterization and mediation of the sensitivity of the ozone reactivity measurement to water vapor was a main emphasis of our experiments. Earlier experiments, where the sampling flow was subjected to variable water vapor, such as by injecting small volumes of water through an injection port upstream of the reactor in the

configuration shown in Supplement C, confirmed the findings from prior literature: Despite a constant ozone mole fraction that was fed into the reactor, both, the two-monitor determination, and the single monitor ozone differential determination, showed instantaneous changes in the ozone signal, reaching on the order of 10 ppb. This bias in the ozone recording lasted significantly longer (≈10 times) than the residence time that was determined in the above described experiment using nitric oxide, demonstrating that the retention of water, likely from reversible uptake to walls and tubing inner surfaces in the reactor, is longer, and flushing water vapor out of the reactor takes a higher purge volume than for less polar/more volatile gases. These water vapor effects on the ozone signal were mitigated by two modifications to the TORM: (1) the glass flasks reactor was insulated and a heater, regulated by a temperature controller was added to control the temperature of the reactor to 40°C. This heating significantly reduced the residence and interference time from the water injection, likely due to a reduction of the adherence of the water vapor to the walls of the glass flasks and other reactor components. Our observations agree with the findings reported by Wilson and Birks [2006], who found a reduction of the water interference for their 2B Technologies ozone monitor when the glass optical cell was slightly heated; and (2) Nafion dryers (0.64 cm o.d. x 180 cm length; MD-110-72739 gas dryer, Perma Pure LLC, New Jersey, USA) were inserted into both ozone monitor inlet flows before and after the reactor. We installed the two Nafion dryers there, rather than one Nafion dryer for the sample flow path going into the reactor, to prevent possible losses of polar and unsaturated compounds from the sample flow passing through a Nafon dryer, as has been reported in other prior research. The purge flow for the Nafion dryers was provided by the vent flow from the TEI 49i. The analyzer vent flow was split into two approximately equal fractions, resulting in 0.6 L min^{-1} flow for each Nafion Dryer (Figure 5B). Throttle valves were installed in both lines as flow restrictors and adjusted such that the pressure in the exterior chamber of the Nafion dryers was ≈10% below the interior section of the dryer (cell pressure readings from the differential 49i monitor). The Nafion dryers were conditioned using the same protocol as for the reactor (see above), after which there was no notable ozone loss from sampling the ozone-enriched air flow through the Nafion tubing, in agreement with other previous studies that have reported negligible ozone loss in Nafion tubing materials [Wilson and Birks, 2006; Boylan et al., 2014; Kim et al., 2020].

Results from an experiment with the Nafion dryers in use and where water vapor was increased in multiple steps is shown in Fig. 8. The same humidification system as described by Boylan et al. [2014] was used for moisturizing a zero air dilution gas fed to the TORM. The resulting humidity was recorded with a LICOR model 7000 CO_2/H_2O gas analyzer downstream of the mixer, but upstream of the reactor. Each humidity level was maintained for 30 min, before subjecting the system to the next higher moisture level by a rapid change in the humidity generator setpoint. The differential signal was monitored with the differential 49i monitor, as well as by recording the absolute ozone upstream and downstream of the reactor with two individual monitors. Both ozone monitoring systems were sampling through the Nafion tubing. Results of the experiment (Fig. 8) show a residual differential signal response of ≈0.5 ppb over an approximately 10 to 84 % RH span for the differential monitor. The two-monitor $\Delta[O_3]$ response is approximately six times as large. The spikes seen during the moisture transition periods seen in earlier experiments disappeared completely for the differential monitor. If background measurements are performed at a different RH than the ozone reactivity measurements, this residual differential signal needs to be taken into account on a case-by-case basis.

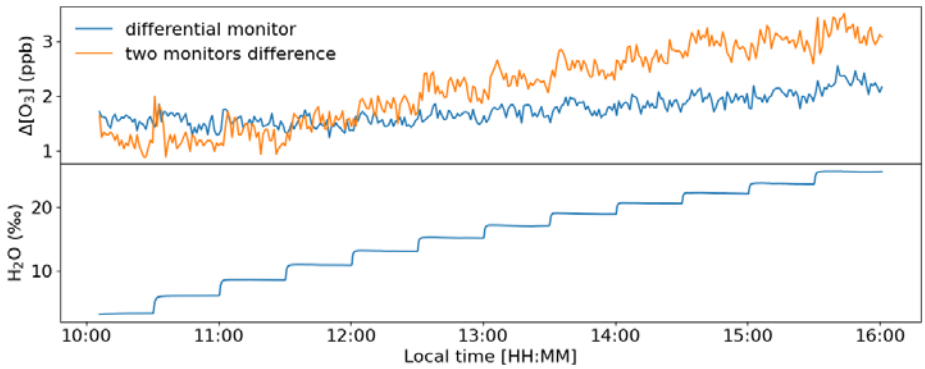

Figure 8. Experiment with increasing humidity in the air supplied to the TORM. The humidity content of the sample air is displayed in the lower graph in units of parts per thousand (‰). A total of 12 levels were administered, from ≈3 -26‰, which at room temperature conditions (25°C) is approximately equivalent to a RH range of 10-84%.

Similar order of magnitude results were obtained in a series of experiments where liquid water (20 to 100 µl) was injected into the sampling flow through a septum port upstream of the reactor. The Nafion dryer removed ≈2/3 of the water interference, and the differential monitor response to the water injection was ~~less than~~≈ half compared to calculated difference from the two-monitors configuration (Supplement G).

3.6 Application Examples

Ozone reactivity of test mixtures and samples from vegetation enclosures were investigated in laboratory and field systems. A laboratory experiment using a flow of limonene ~~standard~~test gas is presented in Fig. 9. The purpose of the experiment was to demonstrate the linearity of the TORM ~~response and to derive a lower bound estimate for the TORM response. Here, we chose to define the TORM response (in units of ppb s) as the delta ozone signal (ppb) per unit of ozone reactivity (s^{-1}), as calculated from the product of the reactant mole fraction and its ozone rate constant.~~. The test gas ~~standard~~ was prepared in house for a target mole fraction of 20 ppm~~. However,~~, but the actual mole fraction ~~is expected to have decreased with time, but~~ could not be independently verified at the time of the experiment. ~~The theoretical mole fractions, after mixing of the standard with the dilution flow, range between 0-33 ppb, which is a typical range observed during enclosure experiments) and represents upper limit values.~~ The TORM determination shows good linearity, with a R^2 result of the linear regression of ~~0.9991~~1.00. At the highest limonene level, the TORM signal, recorded with the differential ozone monitor, was ~~0.9~~1.1 ppb (after subtraction of the 1.7 ppb Δ ozone ~~reactor background~~OWL that was determined for this particular application~~).~~), which corresponds to a total O_3 reactivity of 7.3 e^{-5} s^{-1}, considering $[O_3]_0$ to be 100 ppb and the residence time 150 s (3.6 l min^{-1} flow through the 10 L reactor, scaled with a factor 0.9). This infers that the limonene mixing ratio entering the reactor would be 13.6 ppb, which is reasonable considering the dilution from the gas standard (8.4 ml min^{-1} standard flow in a 5.1 l min^{-1} total flow) and its target mole fraction.

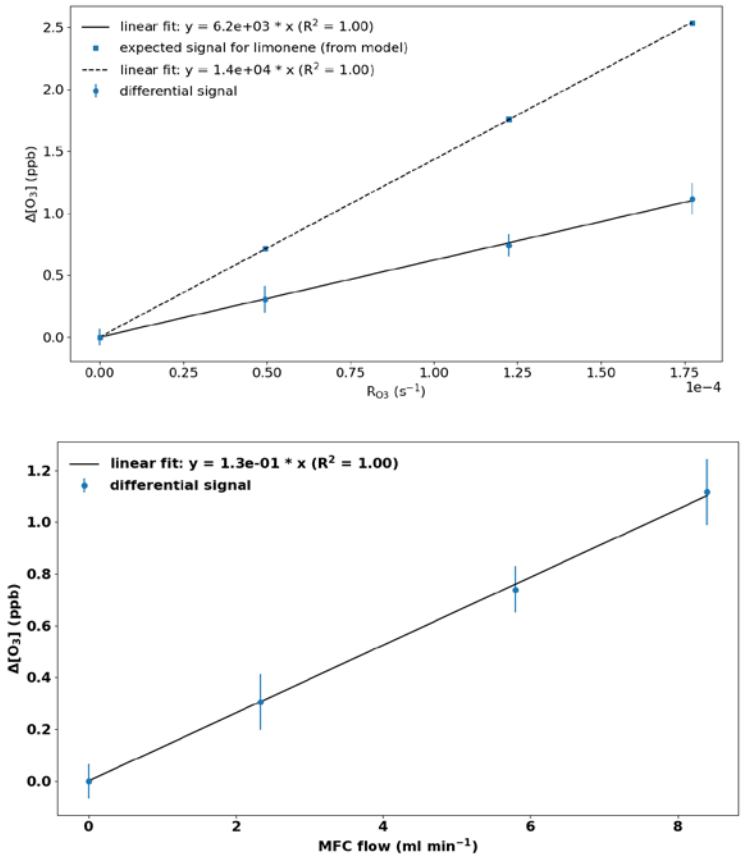

Figure 9. Laboratory test of the TORM. A small flow of a high mole fraction limonene standard was fed into the system upstream of the reactor. ~~The theoretical reactivity calculated from the BVOC ozone rate constant, ozone mole fraction, and residence time are given on the x-axis.~~T. Error bars represent the standard deviation for the monitoring data at each level.

~~*In Fig. 9, the experimental results from the limonene experiments are also compared with the modelled signal for various O_3 reactivity values for limonene for the operating conditions of TORM during this experiment. The modelled results reflect the expected O_3 decrease due to the reaction with limonene after the reaction corresponding to the residence time in the reactor (here 150 s; 3.6 l min^{-1} flow through a 10 L reactor, scaled with a factor 0.9). The applied rate constant for the reaction of ozone with limonene at 298 K is 21 x 10^{-17} cm^3 s^{-1} [Atkinson and Arey, 2003]. A linear regression shows that $\Delta[O_3]$ is linearly dependent with R_{O3} (slope value of 1.4 x 10^4 ppb s). The discrepancy between the model and the experiment stem likely from the uncertainty of the mixing ratio in the limonene standard. The experimentally determined response of the differential monitor, i.e. 6.2 x 10^3 ppb s, is therefore a lower limit. Applying a lower limonene mole fraction in the standard would lead to a proportionally higher value.*~~

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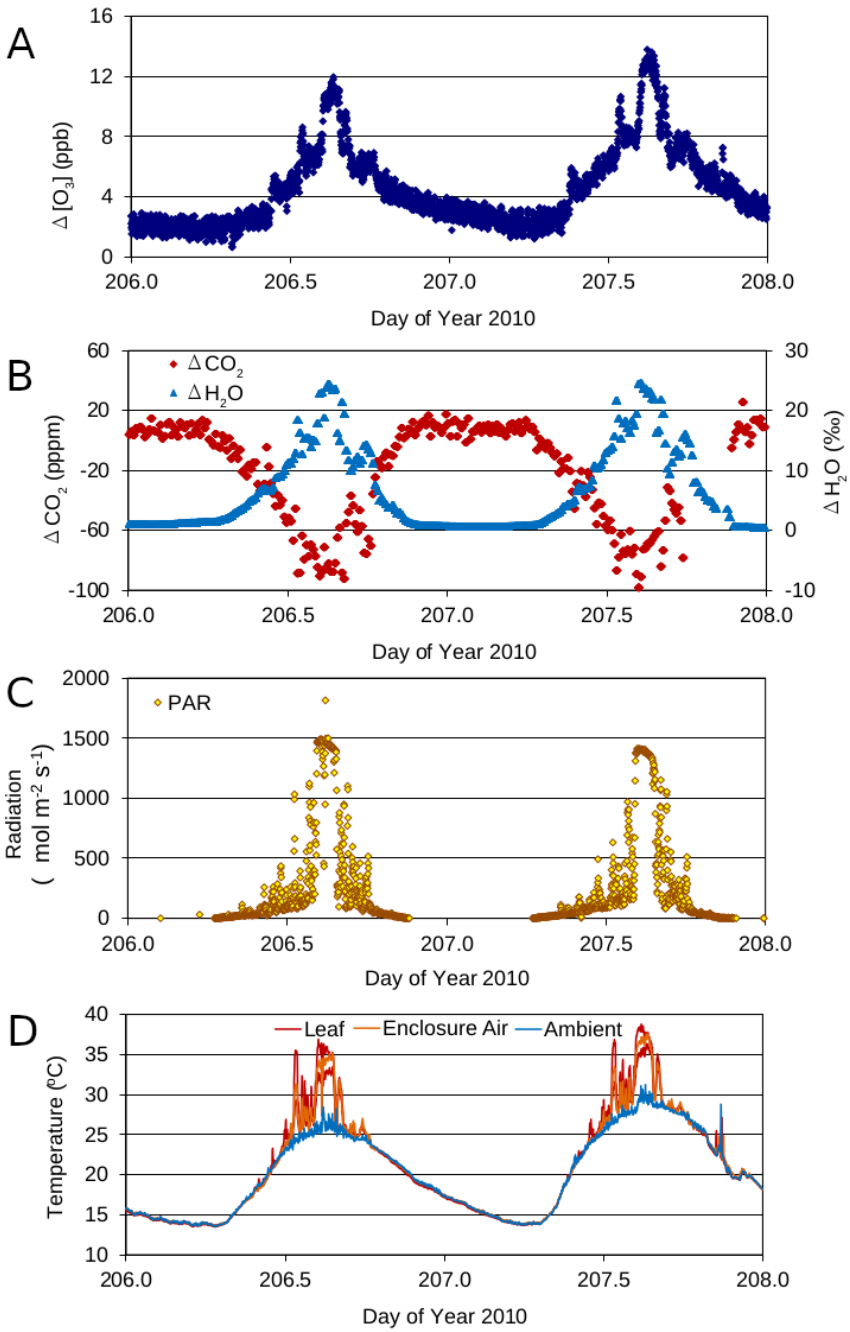
The TORM has been deployed in field settings at several research sites in the U.S. and in Finland. Figure 10 displays more results from one of these field experiments, i.e. a 3-day branch enclosure experiment on a red oak tree at the University of Michigan Biological Station~~. These data show~~

~~results from the 2nd and 3rd days of the experiment.~~ (UMBS) in 2010. The experiment was conducted on relatively warm and sunny days as can be seen in the radiation and temperature data. Besides the differential signal~~,~~ and the calculated total ozone reactivity, both shown in panel A~~, the figure also includes~~ (differential signal scale on the left, and total ozone reactivity scale on the right), the concurrent measurements of respiration and photosynthesis ~~(B),~~ photochemical active radiation (PAR~~) (C~~), as well as ambient, leaf and enclosure ~~temperatures (D).~~temperature. The change in humidity, reaching a maximum of on the order of 25‰ as the mid-day maximum when foliage respiration peaks, confirms our estimate presented in the introduction section for the humidity changes during vegetation enclosure experiments. Emission samples collected from this enclosure and analyzed by gas-chromatography showed that emissions from this branch were dominated by isoprene, with further substantial emissions of MT and SQT compounds. On both days, the TORM recorded a mid-day maximum differential ozone signal of 12-14 ppb, dropping to 2-3 ppb at night~~.~~ ~~The instrument readings are quite similar on both days.~~, which is close to the system background signal (OWL). The differential signal clearly follows a daily cycle, with low values during nighttime hours, and daytime maxima during the early afternoon. The ozone reactivity signal maxima coincide with the peak in diurnal radiation, respiration, and photosynthesis, which suggests that the ozone-reactive emissions are modulated by light availability. ~~Comparison of the observed ozone reactivity with the calculated~~



~~Figure 10.~~ ~~Results obtained over two days from a branch enclosure experiment on a red oak tree, with data for $\Delta[O_3]$ measurements (A), solar radiation (B), respiration and photosynthesis expressed as the difference in the water and CO_2 mole fractions in the air stream going into and out of the enclosure (C), and leaf, inside enclosure, and ambient temperature (D).~~

~~ozone reactivity from identified BVOC species could only account for a fraction of the observed reactivity (Praplan et al., manuscript in preparation).~~ Similar diurnal cycles of ozone reactivity were observed for sweetgum in the Southern Oxidant and Aerosol Study [Park et al., 2013], as can be seen in the ten days of measurements shown in Fig. ~~5~~6. Please note that the data in Fig. ~~5~~6 were normalized to the leaf dry mass of the enclosure. foliage. A detailed discussion comparing the observed total ozone reactivity with the ozone reactivity calculated from identified BVOC species in the emissions is the subject of an upcoming publication (Praplan et al., manuscript in preparation).

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~~A presentation of the ozone reactivity results normalized to the leaf dry mass and~~

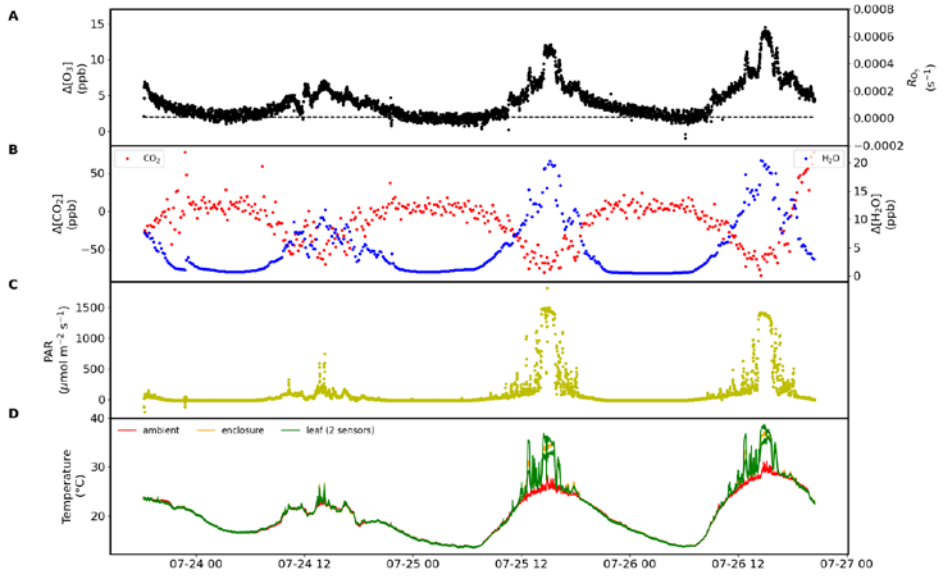

Figure 10. Results obtained over three days from a branch enclosure experiment on a red oak tree at the University of Michigan Biological Station, with (A) results for the $\Delta[O_3]$ measurement, with the dashed black line indicating the value of the wall losses/background (left) and the corresponding RO_3 (right), (B) respiration and photosynthesis expressed as the difference in the water (right) and CO_2 (left) mole fractions in the air stream going into and out of the enclosure, (C) solar photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), and (D) leaf, inside enclosure, and ambient temperature.

Furthermore, a presentation of the ozone reactivity results normalized to the leaf dry mass and flow through the branch chamber as a function of leaf temperature for experiments performed at UMBS is shown in Fig. 11. All four species show an increase of reactivity with increasing temperature. This feature indicates that all species emit reactive volatiles at increasing rates as temperature increases. Interestingly, the normalized reactivity for the various tree species is quite different, varying by at least a factor ~~of three~~3. It also appears that the temperature dependencies are different, with red maple showing a more dynamic increase than other species. Remarkably, white pine, a high MT emitter, gave the lowest reactivity results. Furthermore, ~~red~~ the ozone reactivity temperature response for red maple ~~results appear~~appears to be higher than for red oak, despite the fact that red oak was found to emit ~~high~~higher amounts of BVOC~~, totalling ≈100 x those of~~ than maple, but with most of the emissions made up by isoprene. The relatively high levels of ozone reactivity are also noteworthy in light of the independent OH reactivity study by Kim et al. [2011], who found that red maple emissions exhibited the highest missing OH reactivity associated with SQT in comparison

with these other three species. Consequently, red maple is a prime candidate for having reactive BVOC emissions that hitherto have not been chemically identified.

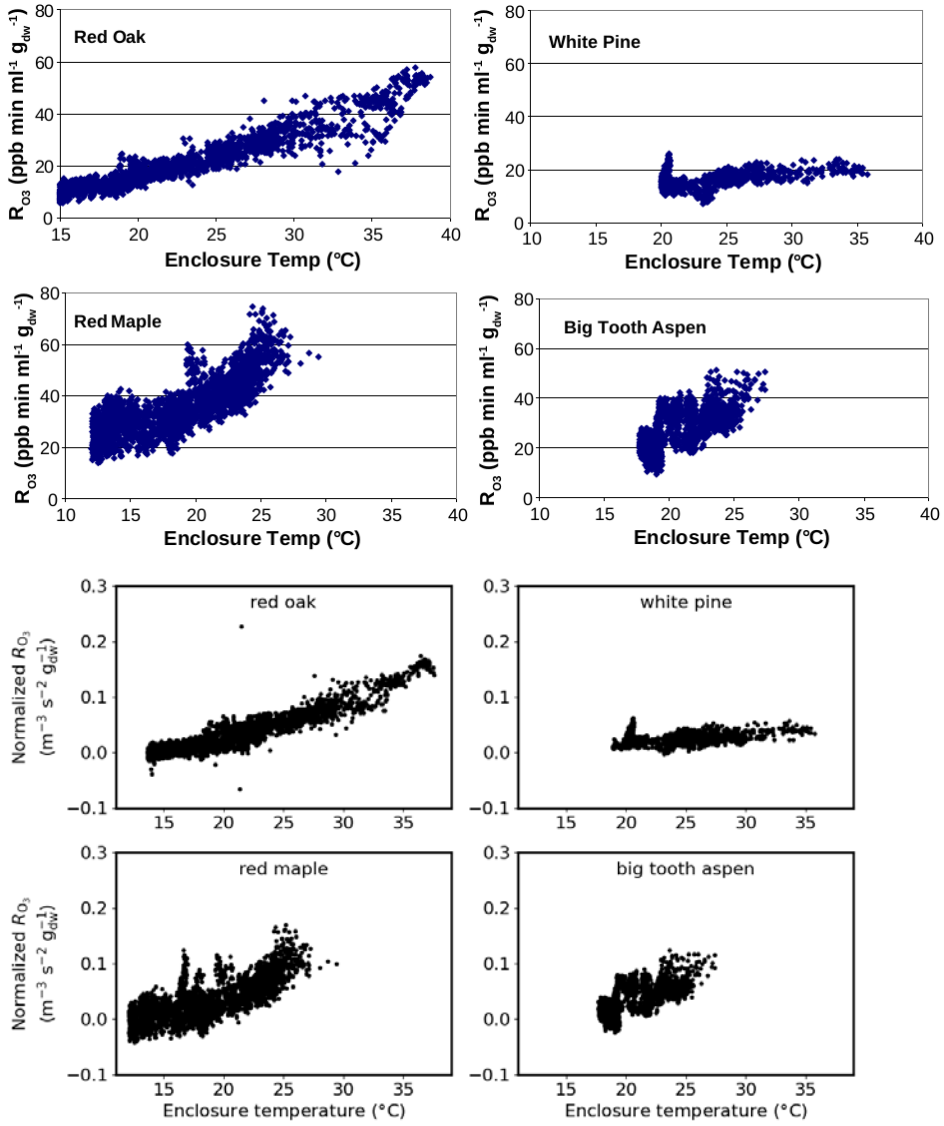

Figure 11. ~~Delta ozone~~Total O_3 reactivity from the emissions results from experiments on red oak, red maple, white pine, and big tooth aspen at the University of Michigan Biological Station, normalized to the amount of leaf dry mass and flow rate, as a function of enclosure temperature.

4. Summary and Conclusions

A total ozone reactivity monitor, TORM, was developed for the study of the ozone reactivity of biogenic emissions. TORM builds on standard laboratory equipment and can be assembled with moderate technically skilled personnel and at relatively moderate cost. The instrument was thoroughly characterized, and a number of ameliorations were implemented that significantly improved the measurement sensitivity and reduced the interference from absolute and changing water vapor in the sample air. Critical improvements over previously reported measurement approaches were the adaptation of a commercial ozone UV absorption monitor for direct measurement of the reacted ozone (ozone differential), heating and temperature control of the reactor, and the drying of the sample flows with Nafion dryers. Specific challenges arose with this setup that could be overcome, such as balancing the pressure difference for each cell in the differential ozone monitor (one cell measuring before the reactor and the other cell measuring after).

TORM has been used in a number of field settings and proven the feasibility and value of this new measurement. Differential ozone signals ($\Delta[O_3]$) on the order of 0-5 ppb have been obtained in enclosure experiments on high-BVOC emitting species. These signals are 20-50 times above the noise level of the measurement. Chemical identification of BVOC emissions from the enclosure and estimation of the total reactivity of identified emissions has been able to only account for a fraction of the directly measured ozone reactivity. Detailed description of these field studies and discussion of the results, including the attribution of the directly measured ozone reactivity to identified BVOC emissions, will be presented in a forthcoming publication (Praplan et al., in preparation).

Data availability

All data that the work builds on are presented in the manuscript and Supplemental Information.

Disclaimer

This study does not necessarily reflect the views of the funding agencies, and no official endorsements should be inferred.

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Author contribution

D.H. Principal Investigator of the U.S. study, advised student researchers, managed research grants, oversaw the study, prepared and approved the manuscript.

A.G. Co-Principal Investigator of the U.S. study, reviewed and approved the manuscript.

J.H. Constructed instrumentation and conducted experiments, developed control and data acquisition software, approved the manuscript.

R.D. Constructed instrumentation and conducted experiments, participated in field studies, reviewed and approved the manuscript.

W.W. Constructed instrumentation, conducted experiments, prepared, reviewed, and approved the manuscript.

J.H.P. Constructed instrumentation, developed instrument control software, conducted lab and field experiments, reviewed and approved the manuscript.

A.L. Constructed instrumentation, conducted lab and field experiments, approved the manuscript.

A.P.P. Principal Investigator of the Finnish study, conducted field and lab experiments, prepared and approved the manuscript.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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